

The Seattle Hearing on Saving Our Dams and Water
February 29, 2000
Seattle, Washington

My name is Eleanor Kiner and I own a cattle ranch in Lincoln County, Washington. I am also a member of the Washington Women for Agriculture and I am representing that organization today.

The WWA opposes the breaching of dams. That radical approach in an attempt to increase the number of salmon is without positive scientific proof that breaching or removal of dams will increase the number of salmon. It is without consideration of the fact that it is a big step backward in the progress of our state and nation. History is for yesterday's memories. Tomorrow is today's future.

We need dams for irrigation in production of food to feed our increasing population. We need electricity to meet the demand for the expanding use in modernization. Without electricity, how can we continue to develop, manufacture, or even utilize the technical equipment now in use in our computer age?

How many of you will be deprived of the convenience that electricity provides in our homes, schools, public places and industries? If new sources of electricity are found, how long would it take in the bureaucratic/political process to approve, design, ^{and} build new plants? If, according to those who think salmon preservation should begin immediately, a time lapse would occur without adequate electrical power.

We need dams for flood control. We need dams for barge transportation. We are not living in the nineteenth century. Our roads, bridges, railroad lines now have been rebuilt for today's transportation system. What will be the costs and the time element involved to relocate our transportation network in our very mobile society?

Remove the dams and many more complications will arise from a chain reaction of events. They will affect established communities, the agriculture industry, our economy, *and* the environment. Man can not change the powerful, uncontrollable force of Mother Nature. Man can control the amount of fishing in our rivers and the oceans. We do not need to kill salmon because they are not of the wildlife variety.

In-depth information pertaining to this issue which is obtainable on the Internet web site may be impressive but Common Sense must be used in decision making. Decisions must be made at the local level.

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